

against Iran. Ironically, it is small step from repeatedly calling Iran "our enemy" with increasingly militaristic rhetoric to calling for Iran to be "wiped off the map." We should keep this in mind as we condemn the rhetoric of others while repeating similar rhetoric ourselves.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution condemning Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's threats against Israel. Not in recent time have we heard such a repugnant statement made by an international leader. And I stand here today with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to declare that the United States Congress will not sit idly by while Iran threatens Israel with anti-Semitic, racist, and dangerous threats.

Since its establishment in 1948, Israel has sought to live in peace with its neighbors. It has signed peace agreements with Egypt and Jordan, and continues to seek a two-state solution with the Palestinians.

On the contrary, Iran continues to seek instability in the Middle East. For Iran's dictatorial regime, instability is power. Its actions combined with its anti-Semitic and anti-Western statements seek to accomplish nothing more than incite hate and violence in the region. President Ahmadinejad's comments represent Iran's long-term goal of violently destroying Israel. Most despicable about these statements is that Iranian leaders make them "in the name of Allah." They attempt to manipulate the text of the Koran from its words of peace into directives of extremism and intolerance, tainting the world's views of the religion.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Iran are calling out for freedom from the tyrannical regime which holds them hostage. While it is not the role of the United States to free the people of Iran, it is certainly our job to support them—and we will when they and their leaders choose democracy over autocracy and instability. Until then, the United States will never stand by when Iranian threats are levied at Israel or any other democracy in the world. The world can always count on that.

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 523, a resolution condemning the unprovoked and incendiary statements made by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

On October 26, 2005, President Ahmadinejad described Israel as a "disgraceful blot" that should be "wiped off the map," and declared that those who recognize Israel "will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation's fury".

While Mr. Ahmadinejad's dangerous rhetoric is reason enough for alarm, it is even more frightening that Mr. Ahmadinejad and the Iranian regime have demonstrated a willingness to follow through on these statements.

In recent years, Iran has stepped up its efforts to initiate terror against Israel by directly funding and providing safe haven, training and weapons to Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad. And just hours after his speech, Islamic Jihad, benefiting from this support, killed 5 Israeli citizens in a terrorist attack in Northern Israel.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ahmadinejad has blood on his hands and we must stand strong against this menacing threat by passing this resolution.

Furthermore, I call on my colleagues to support the Iran Freedom Support Act, which would tighten and codify sanctions against

Iran, and I urge the United Nations Security Council to take immediate action to thwart Iran's continued pursuit of nuclear weapons. Iran's bellicose words and aggressive behavior must be met by a strong, united reaction by the United States and the international community.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on October 26, 2005, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad stated that "Israel must be wiped off the map." It is shocking and unbelievable that the leader of any nation would call for the complete destruction of another.

These types of threats cannot stand unanswered. I join my colleagues today in condemning the president of Iran's remarks in the strongest of terms.

While the peace process has been moving along in the Middle East without much participation from the Bush administration, Iran continues to pursue nuclear armament with little interest shown by the president, and the United States remains bogged down in Iraq.

I hope these unconscionable statements will cause the Bush administration to renew its commitment to our allies in the region.

Let us make no mistake, such statements present a serious threat to the world. Iran's leaders are pursuing nuclear armament, and continue to call for the destruction of the state of Israel, one of the United States most important allies.

The statements made by President Ahmadinejad are not just a threat against the people of Israel, but they are a threat to the peace and stability of the entire world.

These words of hate must not go unanswered or unchallenged. The United States and the United Nations must stand firmly against such threats.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and join my colleagues in condemning the vile statement made this week by Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, when he called for Israel to be "wiped off the map." Such words are not empty rhetoric but poison aimed at inspiring hate, violence and terrorism. The fact that these words were spoken before an audience of 4,000 students is a dark and ominous demonstration of the current Iranian president's pathological leadership.

Israel is a sovereign democracy in which free people deserve the right to live in peace and without fear of terror or threats. While this dangerous man speaks venom, the people of Iran must be reminded that the people of the U.S. and the entire Congress stand in strong support of Israel. As Israel exists today, so will it exist one hundred years from now, and I hope, a thousand years from now, as a strong and inseparable partner of the American people.

Iran's president is the voice of hatred and moral corruption. It is a voice not to be ignored, but guarded against. The people of Iran are not served by this voice and neither is the civilized world. President Ahmadinejad must be placed on notice by all nations of the world and all voices of civility and dignity—the people of Israel are our brothers and sisters and such a threat is not only a threat against Israel but against the entire world community. Collectively we seek peace, but we also deserve security, the U.S., Israel and all nations that reject these virulent sentiments.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for H. Res. 523 and join my col-

leagues in condemning Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's threats against Israel.

This week, during an anti-Zionist conference in Tehran, the Iranian President called for Israel to be "wiped off the map" and led group chants of "death to Israel." Standing beside Sheikh Nasrallah, leader of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah terrorist organization, he called for violence against Israel and all states that recognize her existence.

Leaders around the world responded with forceful condemnation. At the U.N., Secretary General Annan acted swiftly to reject Iran's unprovoked hostility.

Now, it is time for the U.N. to stand up as an institution and rebuke Iran for its actions. It is time for the U.N., which has a long history of unfair treatment of Israel, to speak out loudly and clearly in support of its existence.

Iran's threats against Israel violate the fundamental U.N. Charter principle of sovereign equality for all member states. The danger of its rhetoric is only underscored by its open support for terrorist groups that attack Israel, and its determination to develop nuclear weapons and obtain long-range missiles capable of striking Israel.

This alarming incident demonstrates that the international community must redouble its efforts to shut down Iran's nuclear program before the regime has the capability to try and carry out its evil designs.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the gentleman from California for his superb support for this important resolution, as well as the other Members who spoke.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House today, the resolution is considered read and the previous question is ordered on the resolution and on the preamble.

The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2744.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.